



Governor Brian Schweitzer

# Montana

## GOVERNOR'S STATE WORKFORCE INVESTMENT BOARD

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### Blackfeet Certified as First Native American One-Stop System



**Blackfeet Chairman Earl Old Person and Working Friends One-Stop Director George Kipp accept the first ever certified Native American one-stop from Labor Commissioner Keith Kelly**

HELENA - - The Governor's State Workforce Investment Board (SWIB) proudly announces certification of Montana's first designated Native American One-Stop System, *Nit-Sit-Tah-Poh-Tahk-Kaaks*, Working Friends, in Browning, Montana.

"The certification represents effective community partnerships in the workforce system within the boundaries of the Blackfeet Nation," said Governor Brian Schweitzer.

"This is a historical event," said Blackfeet Chairman Old Person upon receiving

certification. "Yesterday we were followers. Today we are leaders."

Business, economic development, education, and workforce systems have long had strong partnerships in Montana's communities. These partnerships leverage resources to enhance programs' services and improve long-term employment outcomes. Last year, partners working together to help businesses, job seekers, students, and workforce professionals find employment and career resources utilized approximately \$133 million.

"A strong referral system and no wrong door approach allow partners to serve clients in the most efficient manner possible," said SWIB Director Leisa Smith.

According to program profiles collected from program managers in 2006, business services utilized 13% of the funding, youth services utilized 19%, and adult and dislocated worker services utilized the remaining 68%.



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“This certification validates our past, present and future vision and allows us to better serve our people,” said Working Friends One-Stop Operator George Kipp, IV.

“The State Workforce Investment Board (SWIB) is formally recognizing these long-standing partnerships by way of the certification of One-Stop Systems throughout the state,” said Schweitzer. “Montana’s One-Stop System achieves the federal vision for statewide workforce development, which benefits our people, communities, and economy.”

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